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Dear Reader:

Thank you for your recent letter to the editor which we regret we were unable to use. We receive far more letters than we can answer individually, but we would like you to know, in a general way, our criteria for selecting letters: a signature and address are necessary; brevity, clarity and timeliness are important; we don't print poetry, "open" letters, those addressed to another person, nor letters which could be offensive, obscene or libelous. Often, we have to choose arbitrarily from among many letters which are almost equally qualified. Please try again. We are always interested to read what our readers think about the issues and what they think about us — pro and con — even though we cannot actually print more than a fraction of the letters we receive.

Philip L. Geyelin
Editor of the Editorial Page
The Washington Post